

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 EUR-25 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5263

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T BONN 15164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, MBFR, MARR, MORG, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: FRG PROBLEMS WITH THE CONSIDERATION OF
AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS

1. FRG DISARMAMENT COMMISSIONER ROTH DISCUSSED WITH
EMBOFF ON SEPTEMBER 24 SOME PROBLEMS WHICH ROTH FORESEES
REGARDING THE CONSIDERATION OF REDUCTIONS IN AIR MAN-
POWER. ROTH ARGUED THAT AIR MANPOWER IS QUALITATIVELY
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DIFFERENT FROM GROUND MANPOWER SINCE THE LEVEL OF AIR

MANPOWER MORE CLOSELY DEFINES THE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY OF A GIVEN AIR FORCE. THEREFORE, THE LEVEL OF AIR MANPOWER IS A VERY CRITICAL FACTOR, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY OF AN AIR FORCE CANNOT BE EFFECTIVELY MAINTAINED BY RESERVES. ROTH SAID IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT AIR FORCE COMBAT CAPABILITY WOULD DIMINISH AS AIR MANPOWER WAS REDUCED.

2. ROTH REFERRED TO THE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS WHICH THE FRG FACES. FOR EXAMPLE, THE F-4 IS JUST NOW BEING PHASED INTO THE GAF. THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ALPHA JET. THERE APPEARS TO BE A GOOD CHANCE NOW THAT THE MRCA WILL ALSO BE ADDED TO THE GAF INVENTORY. ACCORDINGLY, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE GERMANS ACCURATELY TO FORECAST THEIR AIR MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE TO TEN YEARS. FOR THESE REASONS, ROTH SAID HIS GOVERNMENT IS STRICTLY AGAINST ANY REDUCTIONS OF AIR MANPOWER FOR THE PRESENT TIME.

3. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF INTRODUCING AIR MANPOWER DATA INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS, ROTH SAID THE FRG HAS NO PROBLEM WITH TELLING THE EAST THAT THE RESPECTIVE AIR FORCES ARE APPROXIMATELY COMPARABLE IN SIZE. HE ALSO AGREES IT MAKES SENSE THAT, SHOULD GROUND FORCES BE REDUCED, AN INCREASE OF AIR MANPOWER SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED. HE BELIEVES THIS CAN BE DONE BEST THROUGH A NON-INCREASE AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, ROTH SAID HE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND WHY DETAILED AIR MANPOWER FIGURES SHOULD BE INTRODUCED AT THIS STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL UNLESS THE GESTURE WERE RECIPROCATED BY THE EAST.
HILLENBRAND

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